

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEA-01 AEC-07 AID-05

CEA-01 CIEP-02 COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INT-05 L-02

NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-05 SS-15 STR-04

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5107

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CA,US

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON TRUDEAU VISIT

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM BRUCE GARVEY COLUMN IN
TORONTO STAR DECEMBER 2:

BEGIN TEXT

PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU AND PRESIDENT GERALD
FORD MEET -- FOR THE FIRST TIME -- IN WASHINGTON ON
WEDNESDAY -- WITH BOTH OF THEM LOOKING FOR ANSWERS
AND HOPING THE OTHER WILL DO MOST OF THE TALKING.
TRUDEAU, IT HAS BEEN LEARNED IN OTTAWA, IS ANXIOUS TO
WEIGHT FORD'S HOPES AND FEARS FOR THE TROUBLED
AMERICAN ECONOMY.

OTTAWA IS ANXIOUS TO ASSESS THE AMERICAN VIEW OF
WHETHER THE US IS HEADING FOR A MAJOR RECESSION THAT
INEVITABLY WOULD CARRY CANADA DOWN WITH IT.

IT IS FELT IN OTTAWA THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE
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TO BRING DOWN A NEW BUDGET AS EARLY AS NEXT SPRING

IF AMERICAN PREDICTIONS FOR THE ECONOMY VARY
SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THOSE IN CANADA.
TRUDEAU WILL WANT TO KNOW IF THE MILDLY EXPANSIONARY
BUDGET BROUGHT DOWN BY FINANCE MINISTER JOHN TURNER
LAST MONTH IS IN STEP WITH THE WAY THE AMERICANS
ASSESS THE ECONOMIC SITUATION.

THE TURNER BUDGET TENDED TO STRESS THE NEED FOR
COMBATting HIGHER PRICES AND UNEMPLOYMENT WITH
SUBSTANTIAL TAX CUTS, RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO CUT
BACK INFLATION WITH AUSTERITY MEASURES.
WITH FEW BILATERAL PROBLEMS TO DISCUSS, TRUDEAU IS
LIKELY TO CONCENTRATE ON THE LARGER DIMENSIONS OF
THE WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS, SUCH AS THE HUGE BUILD-UP
OF OIL DOLLARS IN THE ARAB WORLD. ...
FOR HIS PART FORD WILL BE ATTEMPTING TO PIN
DOWN TRUDEAU ON ITEMS CLOSER TO HOME.
THE AMERICANS ARE NOT HAPPY WITH CANADA'S RECENT
DECISION TO PHASE OUT OIL EXPORTS OVER THE NEXT SEVEN
YEARS. THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM
OF THE MOVE, AND FORD -- PERHAPS MORE THAN ANY OTHER
PRESIDENT IN RECENT YEARS -- IS SENSITIVE TO THE MOOD
OF CONGRESS. ...

IN A WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON MEETING AND A WORKING DINNER
LATER AT THE WHITE HOUSE, FORD WILL ATTEMPT TO PIN
DOWN TRUDEAU ON THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S OVER-ALL
ATTITUDE TO THE CANADIAN-US RELATIONSHIP IN THE
CONTEXT OF CANADA'S INCREASINGLY NATIONALISTIC
ATTITUDE. ...

SENIOR OFFICIALS IN BOTH OTTAWA AND WASHINGTON
STRESS THAT THE FORD-TRUDEAU MEETINGS ARE
ESSENTIALLY A GETTING-TO-KNOW-YOU AFFAIR AND
THAT THERE WILL BE LITTLE OR NO DETAILED DIS-
CUSSIONS OF SPECIFIC ITEMS. ALL THE DETAILS
WILL BE LEFT TO OFFICIALS.

END TEXT.
JOHNSON
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